# **Nevada Common Core Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

Monday, August 26, 2013

Nevada System of Higher Education Office, Reno, Nevada

#### **Committee Members Present:**

- Senator Aaron Ford
- Ms. Punam Mather
- Ms. Suhaila Mustafa
- Mr. Jim Pfrommer
- Dr. Chelli Smith
- Dr. Bill Speer
- Mr. Adam Whatley
- Dr. Steve Canavero

## Leadership/Staff Members Present:

- Mr. Daniel Klaich
- Mr. Dale Erquiaga
- Ms. Rorie Fitzpatrick
- Mr. Dave Brancamp
- Ms. Crystal Abba
- Ms. Allison Combs
- Ms. Christine Hull
- Ms. Judy Osgood

# Members Absent/Excused:

- Mr. Jeff Zander
- Ms. Amy Henderson

## Audience in Attendance:

- Mr. Bill Hanlon (Director Southern Nevada RPDP)
- Kirsten Gleisner (Director Northwestern Nevada RPDP)
- Assemblyman Pat Hickey (Nevada Assembly District 25)
- Assemblyman Randy Kirner (Nevada Assembly District 26)

# **Call to Order**

Mr. Erquiaga called the meeting to order at 9:44am, with attendance reflected above

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Erquiaga opened the floor for public comment, there was no comment

#### **Nevada Common Core Steering Committee purpose and charge**

Mr. Erquiaga spoke regarding the Executive Order and its intent and let the committee know that Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) and Nevada Department of Education (NDE) will present a lot of information throughout the next few months and as a group they will look at what has been done and the first task of the group is to do a "gap analysis" to find out where there are gaps in implementation of Common Core and make recommendations, including if resources are needed for both K-12 Education and Higher Education

Mr. Erquiaga also brought up another charge for the EO is to create a communications plan and hopefully include this in the report delivered to the governor by December of 2013.

Mr. Klaich made a statement regarding the 12<sup>th</sup> grade "transition plan" as a key piece in the gap analysis.

# Setting the context for the work: Exploring the Common Core State Standards

Mr. Brancamp presented a Power Point to the committee about the history of the Common Core State Standards and then spent time covering both the English language arts standards and the mathematics standards.

Copies of the Power Point were handed out with the meeting materials to all members of the committee as well as staff and public in attendance.

Mr. Erquiaga asked Mr. Brancamp to stop for discussion regarding ELA standards Senator Ford requested a copy of the actual standards; staff present said they would provide entire committee with an emailed copy.

Mr. Klaich mentioned providing a list of FAQ's for committee members and other stakeholders. Ms. Abba brought up the National Governor's Association (NGA) grant and that an FAQ had been started through this grant. Copies were provided later in the meeting.

# **Nevada Implementation of Common Core**

K-12 Roll Out and Scale up of CCSS: Mr. Brancamp presented the Nevada Academic Standards (NVACS) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics handout as well as the Power Point of district implementation and results of teacher focus groups.

Postsecondary collaboration on CCSS Implementation: NGA grant, focused on Transition Plans, Communication and faculty workshops. Ms. Abba passed out three pieces of documentation created from the grant.

The committee broke for lunch at 12:05 and reconvened 12:35

#### **Communications Strategy**

Discussion was held regarding creating a communications strategy and Mr. Erquiaga introduced Judy Osgood as the NDE Public Information Officer and the committee agreed to create a smaller working group to begin developing the communications strategy. This working group will be officially designated at the next meeting.

#### Addressing college readiness for Nevada students

Mr. Klaich gave the floor to Ms. Abba and Dr. Spear to discuss with the committee the work done through the NGA grant with faculty at all NSHE schools as well as their desire to see formal transition plans created with high school students moving into NSHE schools. Dr. Spear asked the group to be mindful of the term remediation courses, instead we should be helping students transition to "Credit bearing courses". At this time, Dr. Spear was also introduced and recognized for his work as the Higher Ed lead to Smarter Balanced Consortium. This led to several committee members asking for more information regarding assessments in K-12 Education. Mr. Erquiaga suggested that as an agenda item for the next meeting. The committee agreed.

# Additional opportunities for Steering Committee leadership and influence

Mr. Erquiaga suggested that the committee look at the various working groups that might develop based on the Executive Order and the purpose of this committee to provide leadership and influence in the implementation of Common Core through K-12 and higher education in Nevada. He suggested that these working groups would each provide a piece of the final report to be delivered in December 2013 to the Governor. A list was developed through the next agenda item for future meetings. Ms. Mather spoke up requesting more information before volunteering for any working groups. The rest of the committee agreed.

## **Future Meeting and agenda items**

The committee developed the following items to be considered for presentations, working groups and important pieces to remember for the final report.

- Professional Development
- Resources (classroom instructional resources and textbooks)
- Educational Technology
- College/Career Readiness Transition
- Teacher Preparation Programs
- Parent Involvement
- Communication
- Educator Evaluation/Effectiveness
- Assessments
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade and freshman/entry level alignment
- Research other states and what they have done

Mr. Erquiaga and Mr. Klaich will select a range of dates in mid-late September and a Doodle will be sent out to the committee members to select a date for the next meeting which will likely be video conferenced from Reno and Las Vegas to avoid committee members needing to travel.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Erquiaga opens the meeting up to public comment: Assemblyman Kirner urged that all communication include the community at large whether they have children in public education or not. Assemblyman Hickey seconded his colleagues comments and asked that all state legislators receive communication about Common Core so that they feel comfortable answering constituent questions.

# Adjournment

Mr. Erquiaga adjourned the meeting at 1:33pm

Minutes taken by Christine Hull, Department of Education Approved by the Committee at September 27, 2013 meeting with corrections to member name spelling and title corrections.